Library

# BOROUGH of GODMANCHESTER

# ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

## MEDICAL OFFICER of HEALTH

UPON THE

## SANITARY CONDITIONS of the DISTRICT DURING YEAR 1952

NORTHFIELD & SAUNDERS, Printers, Grammar School Walk, HUNTINGDON

## TO THE
## GODMANCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL

---

MADAM MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1952.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

M. M. MARKHAM.

---

### Staff

*Medical Officer of Health* :

M. M. MARKHAM, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H., D.T.M.

*Sanitary Inspector* :

A. GROVES, M.R.S.I., C.S.I.B.

---

### Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area

| | |
|---|---|
| Area ... ... ... ... ... | 4,956 acres |
| Estimated Population (Mid 1951) ... ... | 2,487 |
| (Mid 1952) ... ... | 2,469 |
| Number of Inhabited Houses (end 1952 per Rate Book ... ... ... ... | 762 |
| Rateable Value ... ... ... ... | £11,066 |
| Value of Penny Rate ... ... | £43 18 7 |

### Vital Statistics

| LIVE BIRTHS | M. | F. | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Legitimate | 11 | 25 | 36 |
| Illegitimate | 2 | 1 | 3 |
| Total | 13 | 26 | 39 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Birth rate per 1,000 estimated population | 15.8 |
| (Ditto for England and Wales) ... ... | 15.3 |

| STILL BIRTHS | M. | F. | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Legitimate | — | — | — |
| Illegitimate | — | — | — |
| Total | — | — | — |

| | |
|---|---|
| Rate per 1,000 estimated population ... | — |
| (Ditto for England and Wales) ... ... | 0.35 |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Deaths (all ages) | 15 | 18 | 33 | Death rate per 1,000 estimated population | 13.4 |
| | | | | (Ditto for England and Wales) ... ... | 11.3 |

Deaths of Infants Under 1 Year

| | M. | F. | Total |
|---|---|---|---|
| Legitimate ... ... ... ... | 1 | — | 1 |
| Illegitimate ... ... ... ... | — | — | — |
| Total | 1 | — | 1 |

Death Rates of Infants Under 1 Year

| | |
|---|---|
| All infants per 1,000 live births ... ..... ... | 25.6 |
| (Ditto for England and Wales) ... ... ... | 27.6 |
| Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ... | 27.8 |
| Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births | — |

## Causes of Death

(Registrar-General's List)

| List No. | Cause | Male | Female |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Tuberculosis, respiratory ... ... ... | — | — |
| 2. | Tuberculosis, other ... ... ... ... | 1 | — |
| 3. | Syphilitic ... ... ... ... ... | — | — |
| 4. | Diphtheria ... ... ... ... ... | — | — |
| 5. | Whooping cough ... ... ... ... | — | — |
| 6. | Meningococcal infections ... ... ... | — | — |
| 7. | Acute Poliomyelitis ... ... ... ... | — | — |
| 8. | Measles ... ... ... ... ... | — | — |
| 9. | Other infective and parasitic diseases ... | — | — |
| 10. | Malignant neoplasm, stomach ... ... | — | 1 |
| 11. | Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ... | — | 1 |
| 12. | Malignant neoplasm, breast ... ... | — | — |
| 13. | Malignant neoplasm, uterus ... ... | — | — |
| 14. | Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms | 5 | 2 |
| 15. | Leukæmia, aleukæmia ... ... ... | — | — |
| 16. | Diabetes ... ... ... ... ... | — | — |
| 17. | Vascular lesions of nervous system ... | 1 | 4 |
| 18. | Coronary disease, angina ... ... ... | 1 | 2 |
| 19. | Hypertension with heart disease ... ... | — | — |
| 20 | Other heart disease ... ... ... ... | 3 | 4 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 21. | Other circulatory disease ... ... ... | 1 | — |
| 22. | Influenza ... ... ... ... ... | — | — |
| 23. | Pneumonia ... ... ... ... ... | 2 | — |
| 24. | Bronchitis ... ... ... ... ... | — | — |
| 25. | Other diseases of respiratory system ... | — | — |
| 26. | Ulcer of stomach and duodenum ... ... | — | — |
| 27. | Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea ... ... | — | — |
| 28. | Nephritis and nephrosis ... ... ... | — | — |
| 29. | Hyperplasia of prostate ... ... ... | — | — |
| 30. | Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion ... ... | — | — |
| 31. | Congenital malformations ... ... ... | — | — |
| 32. | Other defined and ill-defined diseases ... | 1 | 3 |
| 33. | Motor vehicle accidents ... ... ... | — | — |
| 34. | All other accidents ... ... ... ... | — | — |
| 35. | Suicide ... ... ... ... ... | — | 1 |
| 36. | Homicide and operations of war ... | — | — |
| | Totals all causes ... | 15 | 18 |

## General Provision of Health Services for the Area

(*a*) Laboratory Facilities.

The following laboratory facilities have been available to this Authority and to General Practitioners in the Area :—

Public Health Laboratory Service, Tennis Court Road, Cambridge. Tel. Cambridge 55526.

Public Analyst (S. Greenburgh, Ph.D., B.Sc., F.R.I.C.) Tenison Road, Cambridge. Tel. Cambridge 2097.

(*b*) Ambulance Services.

(*i*) Ambulances administered by the County Ambulance Service run in conjunction with the County Fire Service have been available on doctor's orders. (Tel. Huntingdon 348).

(*ii*) An ambulance stationed at Huntingdon Isolation Hospital has been available for cases of infectious disease. (Tel. Huntingdon 59).

(*c*) Home Nursing.

A Nurse/Midwife residing in Godmanchester (Tel. Huntingdon 609) employed and supervised by the Huntingdon County Council carried out Home Nursing and attended maternity cases in the Borough.

(*d*) Clinics—*See over*

(i) The following health services are provided by the Huntingdon County Council.

| Clinics. | Patients Seen. | When Held | Where Held |
|---|---|---|---|
| MINOR AILMENTS. | Schoolchildren. | Every Mon. 9-30 to 10-30 a.m. | Old Grammar School. Huntingdon. |
| INFANT WELFARE | Children (0-5 years) | Every Tues. 2-4 p.m. | do. |
| DENTAL | Pre-School and Schoolchildren Pre-natal and Nursing Mothers | Every Wed. (except 2nd in month) & every Sat. 10 a.m. - 12 noon (by appointment) | 10, Princes Street, Huntingdon |

(ii) The following Health Services are now the responsibility of the Regional Hospital Board are administered on an agency basis by the Huntingdon County Council :

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| OPTHALMIC | Pre-School and Schoolchildren | 1st & 3rd Fridays in the mth. (By appointment except in emergency) 10-30 a.m. to 12 noon 2 to 4 p.m. | Old Grammar School Huntingdon |
| ORTHOPAEDIC | Pre-School and Schoolchildren | 2nd & 4th Tuesdays in month *(By appointment)* 10 a.m. to 12 noon. | do. |

| Clinics. | Patients Seen. | When Held | Where Held |
|---|---|---|---|
| (iii) The following Health Services are provided by the Regional Hospital Board. | | | |
| CHEST | All ages | Every Thursday 10 a.m. to 12 noon | County Hospital, Huntingdon. |
| VENEREAL DISEASES | All cases. | Mondays 3 to 7 p.m.<br>Wed. 4 to 6.30 p.m. | Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge |
| | MALES: | Mondays 5.30 p.m.<br>Thursdays 5.30 p.m. | 28, Fitzwilliam St., Peterborough. |
| | FEMALES: | Wednesdays 5.30 p.m.<br>Fridays 10.30 a.m. | |

Medical, Surgical, Orthopædic, Pædiatric, Skin, Obstetrical, Gynæcological and Dental Out-Patient Clinics are held at Huntingdon County Hospital and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, to which General Practitioners can refer their patients for specialist investigation.

(*e*) Hospital Services.

*Fever.* Huntingdon Isolation Hospital provides facilities for the investigation and treatment of infectious diseases.

*General Hospital Services* are provided by the County Hospital, Huntingdon, and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

*Maternity Cases* can be admitted to Paxton Park Maternity Home, St. Neots. Admissions are arranged through the County Medical Officer.

---

## CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE

| | Total Cases Notified |
|---|---|
| Scarlet Fever ... ... ... ... | — |
| Whooping Cough ... ... ... | 2 |
| Diphtheria ... ... ... ... | — |
| Measles ... ... ... ... ... | 10 |
| Acute Pneumonia ... ... ... | 4 |
| Puerperal Pyrexia ... ... ... | — |
| Typhoid Fever ... ... ... ... | — |
| Erysipelas ... ... ... ... | 4 |
| Acute Poliomyelitis ... ... ... | — |
| Chicken Pox ... ... ... ... | 36 |

---

Diphtheria Immunisation. *(See next page)*

Facilities for diphtheria immunisation are available at Infant Welfare Clinics, through the School Medical Service, and from General Practitioners.

## DIPTHERIA IMMUNISATION.

AGE at date of final injection (as regards A) or of reinforcing injection (as regards B)
AGE 31st December, 1952 (as regards C).

| | Under 1 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 to 9 | 10 to 14 | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| A. Number of Children who completed a full course of Primary Immunisation during the year ended 31st December, 1952 | 17 | 19 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 5 | 1 | 51 |
| B. Number of Children who received a Secondary (Reinforcing) Injection (i.e. subsequently to primary immunisation at an earlier age) during the year ended 31st December, 1952. | — | — | — | 1 | 3 | 11 | 3 | 18 |
| C Number of Children at 31st December, 1952, who had completed a course of Immunisation at any time before that date (i.e. at any time since 1st January, 1938). | 2 | 29 | 34 | 44 | 41 | 184 | 159 | 493 |

## Tuberculosis

Total No. on Register at 31st December, 1952 ... 7

Pulmonary ... 5 Non-Pulmonary ... 2

| Age Periods. | New Cases | | | | Deaths | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Respiratory | | Non-Respiratory | | Respiratory | | Non-Respiratory | |
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| 0 ... | | | | | | | | |
| 1 ... | | | | | | | | |
| 5 ... | | | | | | | | |
| 10 ... | | | | | | | | |
| 15 ... | | 1 | | | | | | |
| 20 ... | | | | | | | | |
| 25 ... | | | | | | | | |
| 35 ... | | | | | | | | |
| 45 ... | | | | | | | | |
| 55 ... | | | | | | | | |
| 65 and upwards | | | | | | | | |
| Total | ... | 1 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... |

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, in connection with persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936 which deals with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

# SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA
# and
# SANITARY INSPECTOR"S REPORT

To the Medical Officer of Health,
Godmanchester.

Madam,

## Housing

During the year ended 31st December, 1952, 2 new houses were built by private enterprise and occupied.

155 applicants were on the housing list at the end of December. The housing shortage remains very acute.

## Water

A piped supply is purchased in bulk from Huntingdon Borough Council. This water supply remains satisfactory in quality. The quality was supervised by the producer authority and also samples were taken within the Borough. These were satisfactory.

In addition to the main supply there are 115 public or private wells.

Estimated number of dwellings supplied :—

| | |
|---|---|
| Direct from main ... ... ... | 475 |
| By stand pipes (main supply) ... ... | 182 |
| By public or private wells ... ... | 114 |

Estimated population supplied :—

| | |
|---|---|
| Direct from main ... ... ... | 1,500 |
| By stand pipes (main supply) ... ... | 600 |
| By public or private wells ... ... | 400 |

The estimated average water consumption in the Borough is 50,000 gallons per day, i.e. approx. 20 gallons per head.

## Drains and Sewers

These remain in a grossly defective state and totally inadequate. Crude sewage still flows from sewer outfalls to open dyke which conveys it untreated into the main river.

The number of drainage connections to this most inadequate system of defective sewers is far beyond its capacity, and the number of drainage connections continue to increase.

### Water Closets

During the year 36 new W.C.'s have been connected to the existing system of sewers, making a total of 526 W.C.'s serving 434 dwellings.

### Night Soil Collection and Disposal

Bi-weekly collections from 334 dwelling houses continued. Disposal continues to be by crude tipping.

### Refuse Collection and Disposal

Household refuse is collected once weekly. Disposal continues to be by crude tipping. Some measure of control has now been adopted to burn all useless rubbish and to maintain the tip site in a more satisfactory condition.

### Street Cleansing

The cleanliness of streets and highways has been maintained by manual labour dealing with approx. 3.5 miles of highway and 1.5 miles of Council's roads.

### Rivers and Streams

New sluice gates of a modern type have been constructed, replacing the old and unsatisfactory six-gate sluice. This will facilitate the more efficient control of the river levels.

The river water remains grossly polluted bacteriologically and analysts' reports testify to the river being unfit for bathing purposes.

Bathing Place—still closed.

---

## SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

All complaints received were investigated and dealt with. Several lengths of sewer dyke were cleaned out and vegetation removed to permit of more adequate flow.

The night soil tip has been maintained in as reasonable condition as this crude type of disposal will permit. The refuse tip has been cleaned up and maintained in a more satisfactory condition.

There were 50 nuisances abated as a result of informal action, and the service of statutory notices was not necessary.

Other details of inspections and relevant matter is set out overleaf :—

| | |
|---|---|
| Housing ... ... ... ... ... | 50 |
| Shops ... ... ... ... ... | 6 |
| After Infectious Diseases ... ... ... | 1 |
| Disinfection ... ... ... ... | 1 |
| Disinfestation ... ... ... ... | 6 |
| Camp Sites ... ... ... ... | 1 |
| Bakehouses ... ... ... ... | 1 |
| School Kitchens ... ... ... ... | 1 |
| Factories ... ... ... ... ... | 1 |
| Foul Ditches, etc. ... ... ... ... | 2 |
| Sewers ... ... ... ... ... | 20 |
| Animals ... ... ... ... ... | 5 |
| Dampness ... ... ... ... | 10 |

---

## HOUSING

**1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the Year:—**

(1) (*a*) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) ... ... ... ... ... 50

(*b*) Number of Inspections made for the purpose 50

(2) (*a*) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ... ... —

(*b*) Number of inspections made for the purpose ... —

(3) Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state dangerous or injurious to health so as to be unfit for habitation ... ... ... ... —

(4) Number of dwelling-houses exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ... ... ... —

**2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal Notices:—**

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers ... ... ... 100

**3. Action under Statutory Powers during the Year:—**

(*a*) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ... —

(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—

(*a*) By owners ... ... ... ... ... —

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners —

(*b*) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which formal notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ... ... ... ... —

(2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—

(*a*) By owners ... ... ... ... ... —

(*b*) By Local Authority in default of owners —

(*c*) Proceedings under Sections 11 & 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made ... ... —

(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ... ... 1

(*d*) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made ... ... ... ... ... —

(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit ... ... ... —

**4. Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV.—Overcrowding.**

(*a*) (*i*) Number of dwelling houses overcrowded at the end of the year ... ... ... ... —

(*ii*) Number of families dwelling therein ... ... —

(*iii*) Number of persons dwelling therein ... ... —

| | |
|---|---|
| (*b*) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year ... ... ... ... | — |
| (*c*) (*i*) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year ... ... ... ... ... | — |
| (*ii*) Number of persons concerned in such cases ... | — |
| (*d*) Particulars in any cases in which dwelling-houses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding ... ... ... | — |
| (*e*) Any other particulars in respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer of Health may consider desirable to report | — |

---

## INSPECTION and SUPERVISION OF FOODS

### Milk Supply

| | |
|---|---|
| No. of registered cowkeepers and wholesale purveyors | 10 |
| No. of retail purveyors ... ... ... ... ... | 6 |
| No. of T.T. licences in force ... ... ... ... | 7 |
| No. of Accredited licences in force ... ... ... | 4 |
| No. of Unclassified licences in force ... ... ... | 9 |

### Meat

| | |
|---|---|
| No. of slaughterhouses ... ... ... ... ... | 2 |
| No. of inspections ... ... ... ... ... ... | 2 |

### Food and Drugs Act, 1938

This Authority's duties under this Act (Sections 9—18, 21(2), 31, 37—39) were transferred to Huntingdon County Council on 17th January, 1940.

### Other Foodstuffs

No foodstuffs were condemned during the year.

### Food Poisoning Outbreaks

There were no cases of food poisoning reported during the year.

I am, Madam,

Yours obediently,

A. GROVES,

*Sanitary Inspector.*